GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2672
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
AMENDMENT OF SEEDS ACT
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to amend the Seeds Act, 1966;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether the Government is also planning to amend the Indian Patent Act, 1970 for according to patent rights over transgenic seeds may amount to royalty payment to farmers;

(d) the details of the proposed amendment to be made;

(e) whether suggestions of all the State Governments have been incorporated in the proposed amendment; and

(f) if so, the details of the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Government of India has decided to replace the present Seeds Act, 1966 with a new Act for which the draft Seeds Bill, 2004 has been introduced in the Parliament and is currently under examination of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Agriculture.

(c)&(d): The Patents Act, 1970 as amended by the Patents (Amendments) Ordinance, 2004 does not provide for patenting of seeds.

(e)&(f): State Governments provided their comments for incorporation in the Seeds Bill in particular on the issues related to registration of the variety, definitions, seed testing laboratories, constitution of apex bodies, seed certification, accreditation of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) centers, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) Private organizations for testing the varieties, labeling provisions and penalties for infringement etc.

The suggestions given by the state governments were examined and were incorporated in the proposed Seeds Bill, 2004 appropriately.